



UNCLASSIFIED



## House Armed Services Committee

### DAILY SUMMARY – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Current as of 12:00 p.m. EST March 26, 2003

#### Significant Events Last 24 Hours

- Elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division engaged in the largest firefight of the war to date in the Euphrates River valley east of Najaf. Reports indicate that anywhere from 150 to 450 Iraqi soldiers were killed and approximately 35 Iraq vehicles were destroyed. No U.S. casualties have been reported.
- Marines from Task Force Tarawa seized a hospital that had been used as a military staging area, capturing approximately 170 Iraqi troops wearing a mix of civilian and military uniforms. The Marines also found 200 weapons, 3,000 chemical suits and a T-55 tank at the facility.
- British forces report that they are firing artillery in support of a popular uprising against Iraqi security forces in the town of Basra.

#### Iraqi Forces Update

- Four of the Republican Guard's seven divisions continue to take up positions around Baghdad. They include the Medina Armored Division, the Baghdad Mechanized Division, the Adnan Mechanized Division, and the Abed Mechanized Division.
- Press reports indicate that some 1,000 vehicles from one of the Republican Guard divisions are moving south from Baghdad toward the Marine positions near Nasiriyah. CENTCOM has not confirmed this report.

#### Coalition Forces Update

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division engaged the Medina Division of the Republican Guard near Karbala.
- Marines from the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force continue to advance toward the town of Diwaniyah. Marine Task Force Tarawa continues to battle Iraq forces for control of Nasiriyah.
- British forces surrounding Basra repelled an Iraqi counterattack destroying twenty T-55 tanks. The British have delayed mounting a direct attack on Basra to avoid civilian casualties.

**NOTE:** Locations of U.S. moves are not based on official information but are approximations.

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MILES  
200

#### Casualty Count

	Killed	Missing	POW
U.S.	28	1	7
British	18	2	None
Iraq	Unknown	Unknown	3,500

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sources: Unclassified Department of Defense Sources and Press Reports